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**Newsletter for the week commencing30th/31st May 2020**

**Pentecost Sunday (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11**

**Psalm 103 Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13**

**Sequence: see the end of the newsletter**

**Gospel: John 20: 19-23**

**Father John writes:**

What do you feel about change? It can be quite threatening, especially if there is a large element of the “unknown” facing us.

Sometimes we just try to put up with ‘change’ until it stops, but underneath we desperately long to go back to what we were accustomed to. But I am beginning to realise that the present Pandemic is one of those moments when history has truly shifted –a time when the world is never again going to be quite like it was before. It is not surprising that we feel lost, and try to comfort ourselves by imagining that our lives will go back to where we were used to. But our fear is that we will never shake hands again? Is the two meter gap really with us for ever? There is a profound difference between adult independence and fearful isolation.

We are encouraged to wear masks in case someone gets too close and breathes on us. The Gospel reading today for the feast of Pentecost (John 20.19-23) tells us ‘the disciples were locked in the room for fear of the Jews.. Jesus came and stood among them.. and said to them ‘As the Father sent me so I am sending you’. After saying this **he breathed on them** and said ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ When the Holy Spirit came down on each of them, the disciples were changed in one instance from being ‘listeners’ and ‘learners’ to being ‘proclaimers’ of the Good News

The feast of Pentecost celebrates this great moment when the world changed, or at least started to change. And it is a change that is still continuing today. Pentecost is the beginning of Christianity and of the Church. The Word of God is proclaimed throughout the world. Jesus said to the Apostles: *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another to be your Advocate who will be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he is with you and will be in you”*  Rejoice, the Spirit of true change is with us.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: Graham Cunliffe RIP.** His funeral will be in Tunbridge Wells

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Elsie Hulse, Henry Balkham, Dorothy Stewart, Desmond Collins, Paul Lamonte, Annie Smith, Matthew Murphy, Colin Dolman, Agnes Cosens and Fanny Porter.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week**

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” This is the most famous saying of Julian of Norwich, the 14th century mystic theologian and spiritual writer. Her book, The Revelations of Divine Love, is widely acknowledged as one of the great classics of the spiritual life. In it, she vividly expresses her profound belief in a God of unconditional love, of merciful compassion and honesty, and a radical belief in the goodness of creation and humanity - deeply challenging to medieval ideas of a God of wrath. Robert Fruewirth is the author of The Drawing of the Love, a book which aims to enable people radically to apply her immense wisdom to their own situation. His one-hour video talk provides a superb introduction to the teachings of Julian. You can watch it at www.newpilgrimpath.ie

**Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the Season of Easter. Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday.**

In these strange times we cannot receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion as we normally would but here are prayers to help.

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| Reconciliation | Spiritual Communion – Prayer of St Alphonsus |
| Speak to God. Tell Him in your prayer the truth, “Lord, I did this and this and this. Forgive me.” Ask His forgiveness with all your heart, with an act of contrition, and promise Him, “Afterwards I will go to Confession.” You will return to God’s Grace immediately. | My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen. |

The Cycle of Prayer for Ordinary Time (Summer) is: -

For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.

For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.

For human life. For seafarers. For Europe.

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| **Sequence** | |
| Holy Spirit, Lord of light,  From the clear, celestial height  Thy pure beaming radiance give.  Come, thou Father of the poor,  Come with treasures which endure;  Come, thou light of all that live!  Thou, of all consolers best,  Thou, the soul’s delightful guest,  Dost refreshing peace bestow;  Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  Pleasant coolness in the heat;  Solace in the midst of woe.  Light immortal, light divine,  Visit thou these hearts of thine,  And our inmost being fill: | If thou take thy grace away,  Nothing pure in man will stay:  All his good is turned to ill.  Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  On our dryness pour thy dew;  Wash the stains of guilt away:  Bend the stubborn heart and will;  Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  Guide the steps that go astray.  Thou, on us who evermore  Thee confess and thee adore,  With thy sevenfold gifts descend:  Give us comfort when we die;  Give us life with thee on high;  Give us joys that never end. |